



HOME OF PELICAN ISLAND

1225 MAIN STREET ■ SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA 32958

TELEPHONE (772) 589-5518

www.cityofsebastian.org

City of Sebastian **Floodplain Management Annual Progress Report April 2021**

The City of Sebastian adopted the Indian River Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) that serves as the City's Floodplain Management Plan under the Community Rating System (CRS). Under CRS Activity 510, the City is required to complete a Floodplain Management Annual Progress Report and provide it to the public. This document serves as that report.

Adoption of the LMS / Updates

On March 3, 2020, the Indian River Board of County Commissioners adopted and approved the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy. The subsequent five year LMS update was adopted on April 22, 2020 by City of Sebastian Resolution No. 20-05. The plan has been approved for five (5) years and will expire again on August 13, 2025.

Purpose and Objectives of the LMS

The purpose of the LMS is to develop a unified approach for dealing with identified hazards and hazard management problems, including flooding. The LMS serves as a tool to direct the City of Sebastian in its on-going efforts to reduce vulnerability to the impacts produced by both natural and man-made hazards. The LMS also helps establish funding priorities for currently proposed mitigation projects, and develops priority mitigation projects to be completed when funding becomes available.

The primary objectives of the LMS are to:

- Improve the community's resistance to damage from known natural, technological and societal hazards;
- Place the City of Sebastian in a position to compete more effectively for pre- and post- disaster mitigation funding;
- Reduce the cost of disasters at all levels; and Expedite community recovery when disasters occur.

Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group

The City of Sebastian participates in the Indian River County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group (LMSWG) that was established to review and make recommendations concerning the LMS. The LMSWG consists of representatives from Indian River County municipalities, local organizations, County government, and is coordinated by staff of the County Emergency Management Division. The LMSWG last met on October 11, 2019, to discuss the progress of the LMS update, including revisions to the Prioritized Projects List (PPL) of projects eligible for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding. The new LMS was finalized in February 2020 and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in March 2020. The Florida Division of Emergency Management found the County's plan compliant in February 2020.

Capital Improvements Plan

The City of Sebastian, through the approval of the City Council, plans and implements a six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for stormwater and drainage improvement projects. These projects are planned to reduce flooding, and for maintaining the drainage facilities within the City.

Attached is the Fiscal Year 2020-2026 CIP projects list that the City is currently considering for adoption as part of the FY 2020 – 2021.

CRS Program Participation

The LMS references the importance and benefit of City of Sebastian's participation in the Community Rating System. As a participant, the City established flood protection measures and educational opportunities beyond the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These efforts have allowed the City of Sebastian to achieve a "Class 7" certification, resulting in a 15% discount on flood insurance premiums for properties located in the Special Flood Hazard Area within the city limits.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management completed their Community Assistance Visit (CAV) February 10, 2020, on the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and CRS program.

The City receives CRS credit points from a variety of activities that promote flood protection and education. These activities are conducted by various departments within the city. The following table summarizes the on-going activities; the departments or divisions that perform the activities, and the resulting in credit points to the CRS program:

Activity	Department(s)/Division(s)	CRS Activity #
Maintain elevation certificates, make copies of certificates available to the public	Community Development Dept.	310
Provide Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) information, maintain updated FIRM panels	Community Development Dept.	320
Provide pamphlets to lenders, insurance agents and real estate offices regarding City services	Community Development/ Public Works Department	320
Provide outreach to community/ Flood protection information	Stormwater Division Community Development	330
Provide credited hazard disclosure measures; information on recorded plats	Community Development Dept.	340
Preserve floodplain in open space through zoning / Comprehensive Plan Land Use / public acquisition	Community Development Dept.	420
Review new development for compliance with flood protection regulations	Community Development Dept. Building Dept.	430
Track substantial improvements / permitting to meet current requirements	Building Inspection Dept. Community Development Dept.	430
Maintain and update flood data	Community Development Dept.	440
Enforcement of regulations for stormwater management	Building Dept. Stormwater Division	450
Floodplain management planning	Building Dept. Community Development Dept. Public Works Department	510
Maintain drainage systems through a regular program and CIP plan	Stormwater Division	540
Enforce stream dumping regulations	Stormwater Division.	540
Provides outreach material about flood warning and safety measures	Stormwater Division. Community Development Dept.	610

Community Outreach

The City routinely engages in public outreach as part of the on-going effort to educate and inform citizens about flooding and flood protection. Some of these efforts include:

- Participating in the annual Public Works Week event that allows staff to personally disseminate important information that assists Sebastian's citizens in their preparation efforts for the upcoming hurricane season; flooding and flood related issues caused by natural and man-made sources - including storms, poor drainage, and illegal dumping in streams, ditches, and drainage structures.
- Providing educational materials for local organizations to discuss potential or current flooding concerns relative to their industry.
- Attending City sponsored meetings where flooding is, or may be a concern. Information is provided to citizens through the Communications Department.
- Developing and maintaining Flood Prevention and Floodplain Management pages on the City's website that provides information and resources intended to help citizens make educated flood-related decisions.
- Staffing two (2) Certified Floodplain Managers, one (1) in the Building Department one (1) in the Community Development, who are available to answer permitting questions and concerns, as they pertain to development in the floodplain, and to provide flood protection assistance.
- Providing a library of informative flood related brochures available to both the public and City of Sebastian staff.
- Maintaining a series of FEMA publications regarding flood protection and mitigation in the North Indian River County Library.

Certified Floodplain Manager Program

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) has established a national program for professional certification of floodplain managers. The program recognizes continuing education and professional development that enhances the knowledge and performance of local, state, federal, and private-sector floodplain managers. Two city staff members have achieved the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) designation. This reflects the City of Sebastian's continued commitment to professional service in implementing the floodplain management plan.

Comprehensive Plan Infrastructure Sub-Element

The City of Sebastian 2025 Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the City Council, found in compliance by the Department of Community Affairs (currently known as Florida Department of Economic Opportunity). The 2040 Comprehensive Plan is in progress. The Infrastructure Sub-Element of the Comprehensive Plan establishes objectives and policies for maintaining level of service of stormwater systems and protecting property from flood hazards.

Higher Regulatory Standards

The City of Sebastian has adopted the 6th edition of the *Florida Building Code, Residential*. This addition includes raising the freeboard requirement for new buildings to one (1) feet above base flood elevation.

Summary

Under CRS Activity 510, the City is required to complete a Floodplain Management Annual Progress Report and provide it to the public. This annual report update serves as meeting that requirement. Additionally, this report provides a summary of CRS activities, and provides a list of stormwater related capital improvement projects that reduce flooding within the City of Sebastian.